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Action

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AUGUST 14, 1961

EUR

Info

FROM: BERLIN

SS

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 188, AUGUST 14, 6 PM

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DECLASSIFICATION DATE 6/29/87

PER [Signature] OFFICE [Signature]

FADRC FOI CASE NO. 710567 Actual

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 188, NIAC BONN 162, INFORMATION PRIORITY PARIS 118, PRIORITY LONDON 184, PRIORITY MOSCOW 181, PRIORITY POLAD USAREUR 99.

PARIS FOR EMB, USRO, STOESSEL AND MAGUIRE

THREE WESTERN COMMANDANTS TODAY AGREED FOLLOWING DRAFT OF PROTEST LETTER TO SOV COMMANDANT. THEY BELIEVE IMPORTANT THAT PROTEST BE DELIVERED SOONEST IN VIEW GROWING CRITICISM HERE OF ALLIED IN ACTION. TRIPARTITE VIEW HERE IS THAT AS IN PAST LOCAL PROTEST WOULD NOT PREJUDICE POSSIBLE SUBSEQUENT ACTION AT HIGHER LEVEL BUT RATHER COULD BE REGARDED AS PRELIMINARY STEP. IT WAS ALSO TRIPARTITELY AGREED TO RECOMMEND THAT FULL TEXT PROTEST LETTER BE RELEASED TO PRESS SHORTLY AFTER DELIVERY.

BEGIN TEXT

DURING THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 12-13 THE EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES PUT INTO EFFECT ILLEGAL MEASURES DESIGNED TO TURN THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN THE WEST SECTORS OF BERLIN AND THE SOVIET SECTOR INTO AN ARBITRARY BARRIER TO MOVEMENT OF GERMAN CITIZENS RESIDENT IN EAST BERLIN AND EAST GERMANY.

SINCE THE IMPOSITION OF THE BERLIN BLOCKADE HAS THERE BEEN A FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE 4-POWER AGREEMENTS CONCERNING THE AGREEMENT OF JUNE 28, 1949, IN WHICH THE USSR PLEDGED TO FACILITATE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN BERLIN AND

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-2- 188, AUGUST 14, 6 PM, FROM BERLIN

BETWEEN BERLIN AND THE REST OF GERMANY HAS ALSO BEEN VIOLATED.

IN DISREGARD OF THESE AGREEMENTS AND OF THE WISHES OF THE POPULATION OF THIS CITY, FOR THE WELFARE OF WHICH THE FOUR POWERS ARE JOINTLY RESPONSIBLE, FREEDOM OF CIRCULATION THROUGHOUT BERLIN HAS BEEN SEVERELY CURTAILED. TRAFFIC BETWEEN THE EAST SECTOR AND THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN HAS BEEN DISRUPTED BY THE CUTTING OF S-BAHN AND U-BAHN SERVICE, THE TEARING UP OF STREETS, THE ERECTION OF ROAD BLOCKS, AND THE STRINGING OF BARBED WIRE. IN CARRYING OUT THESE ILLEGAL ACTIONS, MILITARY AND PARAMILITARY UNITS, WHICH WERE FORMED IN VIOLATION OF 4-POWER AGREEMENTS AND WHOSE VERY PRESENCE IN EAST BERLIN IS ILLEGAL, TURNED THE SOVIET SECTOR OF BERLIN INTO AN ARMED CAMP.

MOREOVER, THE EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES HAVE NOW PROHIBITED THE MANY INHABITANTS OF EAST BERLIN AND EAST GERMANY WHO WERE EMPLOYED IN WEST BERLIN FROM CONTINUING TO PURSUE THEIR OCCUPATIONS IN WEST BERLIN. THEY HAVE THUS DENIED TO THE WORKING POPULATION UNDER THEIR CONTROL THE ELEMENTARY RIGHT OF FREE CHOICE OF PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT.

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES HAVE TAKEN THESE REPRESSIVE MEASURES BECAUSE THE PEOPLE UNDER THEIR CONTROL, DEEPLY PERTURBED BY THE INTEMPERATE THREATS ON BERLIN RECENTLY LAUNCHED BY COMMUNIST LEADERS, WERE FLEEING IN LARGE NUMBERS TO THE WEST.

WE MUST PROTEST AGAINST THE ILLEGAL MEASURES INTRODUCED ON AUGUST 13 AND HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES.

END TEXT

PROPOSE SEND ONE LETTER TO BE SIGNED BY THREE COMMANDANTS.

BECAUSE OF URGENCY FROM STANDPOINT LOCAL SITUATION AND RESTIVENESS WEST BERLIN POPULATION, WE URGE APPROVAL BE OBTAINED TO PERMIT DELIVERY OF PROTEST LETTER AUGUST 15.

bp Advance copies Mr. East and SS

LIGHTNER

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